

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02664 270012Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 AID-05
AGRE-00 IO-13 /140 W
-----001199 270956Z /16

R 262311Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8221

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALADOR 2664

FOR SEC VANCE AND ADMIN GILLIGAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PRO-
BLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. CLEARLY THE POPULATION/FOOD RESOURCE PROBLEMS OF EL SALVADOR ARE AT AN ADVANCED CRITICAL STAGE AND IMPACT FAR MORE ADVERSELY ON THE COUNTRY'S POOR THAN ON ANY OTHER ECONOMIC GROUP. WITH ONLY FOUR PERCENT OF CENTRAL AMERICA'S LAND AREA AND TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF ITS PEOPLE, THE POPULATION CARRYING BURDEN OF THIS COUNTRY IS TWICE THE AVERAGE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND EVEN HIGHER THAN THAT OF INDIA AND TAIWAN.

2. EL SALVADOR'S POPULATION PROBLEM IS PERHAPS THE COUNTRY'S GREATEST CONSTRAINT TO DEVELOPMENT IN TERMS OF ITS IMPACT ON THE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL (INCLUDING FOOD) RESOURCES, EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES, AND RESULTING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PRESSURES. THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE POPULATION ISSUE WOULD BE CRUCIAL EVEN WITHOUT THE RELATED NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS. AS CONDITIONS HAVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN SA 02664 270012Z

WORSENER, HOWEVER, THE CONCERN FOR SUBSISTENCE ON THE PART OF THE RURAL POOR IS INTENSIFYING ALREADY SERIOUS POLITICAL UNREST IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

3. THE GOES IS KEENLY AWARE OF ITS POPULATION PROBLEM AND IS, THROUGH ITS VERY ACTIVE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, TAKING EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO MEET IT. THE FOCUS OF MY DISCUSSIONS IN THIS REGARD

THEREFORE WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE THE GOES TO LOOK AT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN OTHER SECTORS THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO ENHANCE ACCEPTANCE AND IMPACT OF FAMILY PLANNING INCLUDING ACTIONS IN EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, URBANIZATION, INDUSTRIALIZATION AND WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT. THE POTENTIAL FOR SUCH A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM IS SUPPORTED BY THE DESIGNATION OF POPULATION AS ONE OF THE 52 STRATEGIC PROGRAMS OF THE NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN. ENCOURAGING RECOGNITION OF POPULATION AS A SPECIAL PRIORITY OF THE PLAN WILL BE A PRIMARY POINT OF MY DIALOGUE.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, THE INITIATIVES TAKEN TO DATE BY THE GOES WHICH WOULD REFLECT A GROWING AND SERIOUS CONCERN FOR ADDRESSING THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE POOR ARE NOT AS PROMISING AS THOSE RELATED TO THE POPULATION ISSUE. SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF RESEARCH, EXTENSION, CREDIT AND MARKETING FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TEND TO REMAIN HEAVILY SKEWED TOWARD THE TRADITIONAL EXPORT CROPS. THESE ACTIVITIES NEED TO BE BALANCED WITH AN EXPANDED FOCUS ON DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION WHICH SHOULD HAVE ITS FIRST AND MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IN THE SMALL FARM SECTOR. WHILE THERE IS A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THIS NEED AT THE MID-MANAGEMENT LEVEL IN GOES CIRCLES, THE PROPOSED DIALOGUE MAY WELL OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THESE CONCERNS AND HELP SECURE THE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT AND RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THEM. TYPICAL OF THIS TYPE OF CONCERN AT THE MID-MANAGEMENT LEVEL IS THE MULTISECTORAL NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAN SA 02664 270012Z

FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM WHICH EMPHASIZES PRODUCTION OF BASIC FOODS FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION, AND THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF BASIC FOODS AS WELL AS NUTRITION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES AND SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING. DESPITE ITS DESIGNATION AS A STRATEGIC PROGRAM IN THE FIVE YEAR PLAN, ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AS AN INTERMINISTERIAL PROGRAM WITHOUT HIGH LEVEL GOES BACKING IS DOUBTFUL.

5. ON THE BASIS OF OUR CONCERNS AS EXPRESSED ABOVE, AND STRENGTHENED AND/OR MODIFIED BY A SITUATION AND BRIEFING PAPER CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED ON THESE TWO ISSUES, I PLAN TO CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO AND MINISTER OF PLANNING DR. EDUARDO REYES AS EARLY IN JUNE AS APPROPRIATE. I WILL BE REPORTING ON THESE DISCUSSIONS AS REQUESTED.

6. AID HAS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS BEEN PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GOES FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. TO STRENGTHEN OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN SUPPORT OF A BROADER APPROACH TO THE POPULATION PROBLEM WE ARE PLANNING TO INCREASE AUSAID STAFF BY ONE IN THIS AREA.

7. I WOULD EXPECT OTHER SUGGESTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE USG

ASSISTANCE IN POPULATION AND FOOD PROBLEMS TO ARISE IN MY
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE MINISTER OF PLANNING
AND FROM OUR GROWING FOCUS IN AID ON INCREASING RELATED SELF-
HELP MEASURES.

8. FINALLY, FOLLOWING THESE DISCUSSIONS, I BELIEVE A VISIT
BY COORDINATOR FOR POPULATION AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN,
WOULD BE USEFUL IN FOCUSING GOES AS WELL AS THE US MISSION
ON THESE PROBLEMS, THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIP AND BROADER MEANS OF
ATTACKING THEM.
DEVINE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRODUCTION, POPULATION GROWTH RATE, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANS02664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780224-0882
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780514/aaaaalef.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81d1b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 107370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2548611
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION
TAGS: SPOP, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81d1b695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014